

Members of the FCC:

After reading through HR 4026, it is my understanding that the basic concern regarding localized programming through XM or other satellite radio networks is that there is a potential for local AM or FM stations to lose advertising revenue. I understand that if a station were to lose sufficient revenue, it might be unable to contribute to the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS). However, I believe this concern is unfounded.

Despite the success of satellite radio, I do not feel it poses a threat to the operational capability of local radio stations. Since satellite radio is a subscription-based service, it is not realistic to believe that a majority of local radio listeners would switch entirely to listening to satellite radio.

As an XM listener, I ask that you not force XM to discontinue a service which I personally value. Although I continue to listen primarily to terrestrial radio for local news and weather (e.g. WTOP in Washington, DC), XM Instant Traffic and Weather is particularly useful when I am trying to make a quick decision on which route will be the fastest and safest to reach my destination.

Lastly, I do not think that the Congress should strive to dismantle a potential resource. In the event of an extreme emergency, the ability to broadcast from local radio stations could be lost, due to power outages or collateral damage. If ground stations for a satellite radio network were continuing to operate in a different part of the country, satellite radio would continue to be accessible to the public. Rather than removing local broadcasting from satellite radio to protect the EBS, the EBS should be expanded to encompass satellite radio wherever possible, providing a redundant method of communication.

Please reject HR 4026, and allow satellite radio networks to serve their customers, like me, to the best of their ability.